

Titanium-salt Flocculation and its Sludge Resource Recovery to Photocatalyst for Advanced Water Treatment

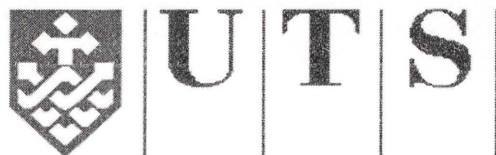
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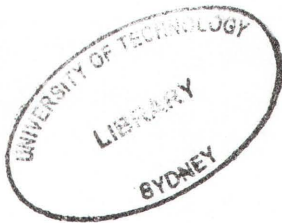


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Certificate

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Signature of Candidate

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Yousef Okour

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List of Abbreviations and Symbols

Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| APHA | : American Public Health Association |
| AW-TN | : Acid washed-titanate nanotubes |
| BET | : Brunauer, Emmett and Teller |
| BTSE | : Biologically treated sewage effluent |
| COD | : Chemical oxygen demand |
| DCA | : Dichloro acetic acid |
| DI | : Deionised water |
| DOC | : Dissolved organic carbon |
| DW | : Drinking water |
| E1 | : Estrone |
| E2 | : 17 β -estradiol |
| E2Ac | : β -estradiol 17-acetate |
| E3 | : Estriol |
| EC50 | : Effective concentration of a 50% loss of bioluminescence obtained after 15 min exposure |
| EDCs | : Endocrine disrupting chemicals |
| EE2 | : 17 α -ethinylestradiol |
| GC/FID | : Gas chromatograph with a flame ionisation detector |
| HA | : Humic acids |
| HPSEC | : High pressure size exclusion chromatography |
| HRTEM | : High-resolution transmission electron microscopy |
| log K _{ow} | : Octanol-water partition coefficient |
| LC | : Median lethal concentration |
| M&M | : Metsulfurn methyl |
| MQ | : Milli-Q |
| MW | : Molecular weight |
| NOM | : Natural organic matter |
| PCBs | : Dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls |
| PCDDs | : Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| PCDFs | : Polychlorinated dibenzo-furans |
| pH _{ZPC} | : pH at zero point charge |
| <i>Pka</i> | : Acidity |
| POPs | : Persistent organic pollutants |
| PPCPs | : Pharmaceutical and personal care products |
| RhB | : Rhodamine B |
| rpm | : Round per minute |
| SBR | : Sequencing batch reactor |
| SEM/EDX | : Scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive X-ray |
| SUVA | : Specific ultraviolet absorbance |
| SW | : Sea water |
| SWW | : Synthetic wastewater |
| TD-TN | : Thiourea doped-titanate nanotubes |
| TEM | : Transmission electron microscopy |
| TN | : Titanate nanotubes |
| USEPA | : United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| UV | : Ultraviolet |
| UV-254 | : Ultra-violet at 254 nanometre absorption |
| v/v | : Volume ratio |
| w/v | : Weight to volume ratio |
| WW | : Wastewater |
| WW-TN | : Water washed-titanate nanotubes |
| XPS | : X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy |
| XRD | : X-ray diffraction |

Symbols

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| A | : Acceptor |
| B | : Full width at half max in radians |
| c | : Concentration of substrate (mg/L) |
| c ₀ | : Initial concentration of substrate (mg/L) |
| d | : Donor |
| e | : Electron |
| h | : Hour |
| h ⁺ | : Positively charged hole |
| hν | : Photonic energy |
| I | : Irradiation intensity (mW cm ⁻²) |
| k | : Apparent reaction rate constant (min ⁻¹) |
| K | : Langmuir adsorption coefficient (L mg ⁻¹) |
| min | : Minute |
| O ₂ ^{•-} | : Superoxide anions |
| OH [•] | : Hydroxide radical |
| R ² | : Correlation coefficient |
| t | : Thickness of an crystallite (nm) |
| V | : Volume (mL or L) |
| θ _B | : Bragg angle of the 2θ peak |
| λ | : X-ray wavelength (nm) |

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Abstract

This research embraces several objectives targeting different aspects of environmental concern in terms of wastewater flocculation, sludge disposal and removing of persistent organic pollutants from water and wastewater. The production of a large amount of sludge using coagulants of iron (Fe) and aluminium (Al) salts that needs disposal is considered as the most costly and environmentally problematic challenge in wastewater treatment. Titanium (Ti) salt used as an alternative coagulant reduces the cost of sludge disposal and protects the environment by producing titania photocatalyst from the incinerated sludge. However, titania photocatalyst is only a UV light responsive and its pollutant-specific photocatalytic degradation for various organic pollutants has not being examined. Thus, the main objectives of this study are:

1. Increase the efficiency of Ti-salt flocculation in terms of organic matter removal and sludge reduction by using a natural polymer of chitosan as a coagulant-aid.
2. Trace the seasonal variation in the characteristics of Ti-salt flocculation and as prepared-titania photocatalyst.
3. Produce pollutant-specific titania photocatalyst by synthesising titanate nanotubes (TN) and thiourea (CSN_2H_4) doped-titanate nanotubes (TD-TN) photocatalysts through the hydrothermal treatment of as prepared-titania.
4. Investigate the pollutant-specific photocatalytic activity of as prepared-titania and the synthesised titania photocatalysts in photodegrading of organic pollutant of gaseous acetaldehyde, humic acid (HA), dichloroacetic acid (DCA), rhodamine B (RhB), metsulfuron methyl (M&M) and phenol under UV, visible and solar light irradiation.

5. Then, select the best pollutant-specific titania for removing of 16 micropollutants of pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs) and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in water.

Our findings indicated that Ti-salt flocculation exhibited more reduction in turbidity, and colour of wastewater compared with Fe- and Al-salt flocculation. In addition, the use of chitosan was very efficient for enhancing the performance of Ti-salt flocculation. Ti-salt and chitosan flocculation improved significantly the turbidity and organic removal of wastewater up to 85%, considerably reduced the optimum dose of Ti-salt from 25 mg/L to less than 5 mg/L, solved the low pH of Ti-salt flocculation, and achieved in 40% reduction of Ti-salt flocculation sludge. The change in wastewater characteristics in different seasons has a negligible influence in the characteristics of Ti-salt flocculation and as prepared-titania. During the whole seasons, the turbidity and orthophosphate removal of Ti-salt flocculation were varied from 70 to 90% and 96 to 99%, respectively. As prepared-titania photocatalyst exhibited predominant anatase structure, high BET surface area and insignificant change in its photocatalytic activity. The photocatalytic degradation of HA and RhB was varied from 85 to 90% and 91 to 98%, respectively. The modified TD-TN photocatalyst exhibited superior photocatalytic activity than as prepared-titania and TN photocatalysts for photocatalytic degradation of the tested organic pollutants under visible and solar light. TD-TN photocatalyst was selected to photodegrade a set of 16 micropollutants of PPCPS and EDCs in water, exhibited a complete photocatalytic degradation of 7 micropollutants at TD-NT concentration of 50 mg/L. The photocatalytic degradation significantly increased with increasing in TD-NT concentration and complete photocatalytic degradation was achieved at TD-NT concentration of 500 mg/L after 90 minutes. The high photocatalysis activity of TD-NT in decomposing persistent organic pollutants and

micropollutants would increase the attention to use of Ti-salt coagulant and titania photocatalyst as alternatives in water and wastewater treatment.